

**THE TENSIONS BETWEEN INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM AND
NATIONAL SECURITY IN DAN BROWN'S
DIGITALFORTRESS:
A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH**



RESEARCH PAPER

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by:

LARAS WATI

A 320 060 190

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

**SCHOOL OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION
MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA**

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Digital Fortress is a scientific novel that was written by Dan Brown. It became the first novel before *Angel and Demon novel*. It was published by St. Martin's Press in 1998. The amount pages of this novel are consists of 128 chapter and 429 pages.

This novel tells about NSA (National Security Agency). NSA was considered on of the most influential government organizations in the world. It had been gathering global electronic intelligence data & protecting U.S. classified information for over half a century only 3 percent of Americans were even aware it existed.

The story begins when the NSA (National Security Agency) invincible code-breaking machine encounters a mysterious code it cannot break. The name of the mysterious is *Digital Fortress*. TRANSLTR is the single most expensive piece of computing equipment in the world-a machine the NSA swore did no exist. TRANSLTR, like all great technological advancement, had been a child of necessity. During the 1980s, the NSA witnesses a revolution in telecommunications that would change the world of intelligence reconnaissance forever public access to the internet. More specifically, the arrival of E-mail.

TRANSLTR have a problem, it cannot break the code of *Digital Fortress*. The code of *Digital Fortress* is written by Japanese cryptographer Ensei Tankado, a fired employee of the NSA, who is displeased with the agency's intrusion into people's privacy. He posts a copy of *Digital Fortress* on his website and auctions the passkey to unlock the code on his website that he will release the code for free if he dies. Tankado is found that he has died in Sevilla, Spain.

Ms. Fletcher as a main character is a brilliant mathematician and head of the National Security Agency's (NSA's) cryptography division. This condition is very dangerous, not only for her agency but it would cripple the United State intelligence, because every people in around the world can access to the data bank and open all the secret data about her country. Ms. Fletcher who is helped by her fiancé David Becker and her team must find a solution to stop the spread of the code. This condition reflects the tensions between individual freedom and national security because every people have individual freedom.

There is a positive and negative response from the public for this novel. From the positive response, Pravsmenon said that this novel is interesting. The novel has a good plot.

Here's the problem: Digital Fortress has a good plot, but it's filled with weak characters. I really liked the plot. A disgruntled NSA employee develops an unbreakable encryption program (the Digital Fortress) and threatens to give both the encryption program and the key (which is buried in the program) away on the Internet. If the bad guys gain access to the key, they

will be able to communicate without fear of the NSA decrypting their messages.

<http://www.goodreads.com>

While the negative response, Darnzey said that the character development of this novel is weak and no strong plot line. The dialogs in this novel were so bad.

The character development is weak, no strong plot lines, and the dialogs were so bad they could have been written by me. Total waste of time. The only fun I got from this book was the time I wrote this review to bash it.

[http://www. book/show/11125.Digital_Fortress.com](http://www.book/show/11125.Digital_Fortress.com)

The rating of this novel, in [www. amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) is that this novel is popular enough. It is proven by the selling of this novel and being the America's 1 best selling, although this is the first Dan Brown literary work.

There are five points why the writer is interested in studying this novel; namely character, setting, plot, style, and theme. Based on character; the character of Susan Fletcher in this novel is interesting. Susan as a head of of the National Security Agency's (NSA's) cryptography division must find a solution about the problem that happened in NSA. Her experience pushed her to show her talent, ability and capacity for saving her agency, her country including for her own life. This condition shows that Susan Fletcher has self-actualization in her life.

The second point of interest is based on the setting. The setting of place in this novel happened in two places, they are; United States and Spain. The third point is plot. The plot of this novel is using traditional

plot. The plot is simple, consist of exposition, complication, climax, and resolution, and then the end of this story is happy ending.

The fourth point is style. In *Digital Fortress* novel, Brown uses standard grammatical structure both in narration and dialogue. Brown uses a combination between long and short sentences construction to make narration and dialogue. The diction of Dan Brown's *Digital Fortress* is simple that the readers can understand the story easily.

The last point of interest is that the subject matter is a tension between individual freedom and national security. If we read this novel, we can see that this novel tells about it. Individual freedom here means that every human has freedom such as, freedom of speech, freedom of think or right for privacy. By their right for privacy, people can do anything without the other people know such as doing communication by e-mail secretly. This condition was very hard for the government to control the national security. National security is the requirement to maintain the survival of the [nation-state](#) through the use of [economic](#), [military](#) and [political power](#) and the exercise of [diplomacy](#).

These are reflected in sociology studies in one or more specialties, such as social organization, social stratification, ethnic relation, education, etc. Dealing with literature, sociology then reflects the way of literature interacts with society and there is a close relationship between literature and sociology.

Shortly talking *Digital Fortress* is very interesting, to know the tension between individual freedom and national security. The theme of the novel tells about the tensions between individual freedom in this novel, the writer applies sociological approach. In this study the writer encourages herself to give a title **“THE TENSIONS BETWEEN INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM AND NATIONAL SECURITY IN DAN BROWN’S *DIGITAL FORTRESS*: A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH”**

B. Literature Review

There is one previous study, which relates to the research, is the research done by Ika Nofi (2009), titled “The Need Virtual Ethics in Dan Brown’s *Digital Fortress*: Sociological Approach”. The research concludes that based on the structural analysis, it’s evident that in *Digital Fortress*, Dan Brown wants to deliver a message that virtual ethics is necessary to guarantee the civil right of privacy.

On the other hand, after browsing in the internet the writer found there is a researcher that conducted the study of *Digital Fortress* novel. In Reni Hikmawati’s blogspot, the writer found that she discusses *Digital fortress* novel with sociological approach, too. The research paper of Reni Hikmawati have entitled “*White Collar Crime as Seen in Dan brown’s Digital Fortress: a Sociological Approach*”. (Reni Hikmawati, 2008). It is a research done in order to find out the white collar crime of the

characters, besides it also discusses about the reasons why white collar crime happens in *Digital Fortress* novel.

Although the research used a similar approach, there is the difference between them. In this research, the writer intends to study the sociological aspect of the novel being research. It will be done by discovering the tension between individual freedom and national security that is reflected in *Digital Fortress* novel especially concerning with American society in the late of twentieth century from sociological approach.

C. Problem Statement

Considering the explanation and the reasons, the writer formulates the problem as follow “How is the tension between individual freedom and national security in Dan Brown’s *Digital Fortress* in sociological approach.

D. Limitation of the Study

The limitation of the study is how the tension between individual freedom and national security in Dan Brown’s *Digital Fortress* is viewed from sociological approach.

E. Objective of the Study

Dealing with the problem statement above, the objectives of the research are as follows:

1. To analyze the structural elements of the novel.
2. To analyze the novel based on sociological approach.

F. Benefit of the Study

The writer finds the benefit that can be taken from this study as follows:

1. Theoretical benefit

This study is expected to contribute to the large body of knowledge, particularly the literary studies.

2. Practical benefit

This research has benefit to the readers in order to get better understanding of the novel, especially from the sociological approach.

G. Research Method

In this chapter, the writer divided into five subparts, namely: type of the Research, object of the Research, data source, technique of data collection and technique of data analysis.

1. Type of the Research

This Research belongs to qualitative method, which is focus on analyzing of tekstual data and does not include any calculation and enumeration.

2. Type of data and the data source

The data in this research is taken from the novel that consists of words, phrase and sentences. In this study the writer uses two sources of data, according to Burns (2000: 458) there are two types of data source, namely: primary data source and secondary data source. Primary data source are documents written by a witness to the events, whereas secondary data sources are secondhand version and therefore less accurate.

a. Primary Data Source

The primary data source of the study is the novel entitled *Digital Fortress* written by Dan Brown.

b. Secondary Data Source

Secondary data is supporting data taken from literary books, criticism, and some articles related to this research.

3. Object of the Research

The object of the research is the novel of Dan Brown's *Digital Fortress*. It was published by St. Martin's Press in 1998. It has 128 chapter consists of 429 pages.

4. Technique of Data Collection

The technique of data collection in this study uses the note taking research by selecting both primary and secondary data. The writer will involve some required steps.

- a. Reading *Digital Fortress* novel.
- b. Taking note from primary and secondary data.
- c. Browsing to the internet to get some information that related to the topic.
- d. Classifying the data into the categories which relevant from the analysis.
- e. Drawing conclusion based on the analysis of the data.

5. Technique of Data Analysis

In analyzing the data, the writer use descriptive analysis. It means that the researcher interprets the text and content to get the needed data. This data are used to analyze the tension between individual freedom and national security in Dan Brown's novel using sociological approach.

H. Research Paper Organization

This research consist of five chapters. *Chapter I* is Introduction, which concists of background, literary review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objective of the study, benefit of the study, research method, and the last is research paper organization. *Chapter II* comprises of the Underlying theory, which presents notion of sociology of literature, structural elements of the novel and theoretical application. *Chapter III* is deliver the social historical background of America society in the late of twentieth century with all aspects that influence and happened. *Chapter IV* is Structural analysis of the novel, which is involve the structural elements of character and characterization , setting, point of view, plot, style, theme and discussion. *Chapter V* presents sociological analysis of the novel.. The last is *Chapter VI* which contains conclusion and suggestion.